

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the following remarks.

The present invention is directed to a system and method for transmitting image information and priority order information from a memory in a second location to an image recording device in a first location. The first controller provided in the first location sends a reading command signal to the second controller provided in the second location. The second controller reads the image information stored in the memory, located in the second location, and transmits the read information to the first controller. The first controller controls the image recording device to record an image based on this transmitted information. Thus, the present invention teaches the retrieval of information previously stored in the memory and the transmission of this information to the image recording device.

Claims 1, 4-8, 15 and 18-22 had been rejected as being anticipated by Satoh. Claims 9, 11-14, 23 and 25-28 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Ota. The Examiner has pointed to column 19 of Satoh as teaching the transmission of information as claimed.

Satoh differs from the present invention because Satoh teaches roughly the opposite sequence of steps. Specifically, the present invention teaches the retrieval of information from a memory and the transmission of this information to an image recording device. In contrast, Satoh teaches the recording of data at one location and the subsequent transmission of this data to a memory. Thus, the present invention takes information from a memory, while Satoh sends information to a memory.

The operation of Satoh is described at col. 19, line 22 to col. 20, line 15 and in Figure 31 (transmission side) and Figure 32 (reception side). First, a communication request (S131) is sent from the transmission side to the reception side. The reception side receives the communication request (S151), checks whether the reception

side memory empty capacity is sufficient (col. 19, lines 26-28) and whether the image file is greater than the capacity of the reception side memory card (col. 19, lines 42-44). If the memory capacity is sufficient, and the transmission side receives the "OK" command (S132) (col. 19, lines 42-45), a "data send start" command is sent to the reception side (col. 19, lines 34-38) and data is transmitted (S135) to the reception side (location of the memory) (col. 19, lines 49-50). Satoh therefore teaches the transmission of information to the memory and not from the memory as in the present invention.

In addition to the above, Satoh does not teach the specific operation of the first control means as recited in claims 1 and 15 of the invention. The first control means of the invention automatically checks the availability of potential image information on the communication network that is subject to image formation. The first control means therefore operates on its own initiative, without the need for a user to enter a command. The efficiency of the image forming process is therefore increased (page 17, line 18 to page 18, line 4).

Ota has been cited to teach the collection of priority order information as recited in claims 9 and 23. Satoh and Ota do not teach that the priority order information is established in advance, without the need for direct instructions from a user. In other words, the image information is automatically subjected to image formation based on the priority order established in advance, without receiving any instructions directly from an operator. Therefore, troubles of delayed finish do not take place, which is different from the occasion in the past where a command for forming an image has been issued by an operator (page 18, lines 16-22). The advance establishment of priority order information eliminates the troubles of delayed finishing and is not taught in Satoh or Ota. Applicant therefore submits that claims 9 and 23 are patentable over Satoh and Ota taken alone or in combination.

The present invention provides a highly efficient image formation method and apparatus. In addition, the present invention provides the advance establishment of priority order information, eliminating the trouble of delayed finish. The present invention therefore makes it

possible to comply with the diversification of image input and receiving works (page 38, lines 1-8).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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